Author’s response to reviews

Title: Use of saliva to monitor meningococcal vaccine responses: proposing a threshold in saliva as surrogate of protection

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Author’s response to reviews:

Response to editor

We find the editor’s comments very valuable and we thank for such comments that have helped us to improve the manuscript.

Point-by-point response to editor

Comment: Dear Mr. Malako,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript, "Stunting and anemia among children 6-23 months old in Damot Sore District, Southern Ethiopia" (NUTN-D-18-00135), to BMC Nutrition.

Before it can be sent out for review, please carry out the corrections, below.
Comment: While assessing your manuscript it was noticed that some of the mothers of the patients in your study are detailed to be 15 – 24 years old. Please clarify how many mothers in your study were under the age of 16. Participants under the age of 16 may not be able to provide consent for themselves, and subsequently, cannot provide consent for their children to participate in research. Please clarify whether consent from the underage mother’s parent/legal guardian was obtained in these cases. Additionally, if there is local legislation which allows for the mothers under the age of 16 to provide consent for themselves and/or their children, please provide a reference to such legislation for our review.

Response: There are no mothers under the age of 16, therefore, consent from underage mothers was not obtained. Furthermore, there is no local legislation that allows for the underage mother to provide consent for themselves and/or their children.

Comment: We kindly ask that you remove the titles and legends from your figures. Figure titles and legends should be located in their own section labeled “Figure titles and legends” which is to be located directly after the References section.

For each figure, the following information should be provided:

- Figure number
- Short title of figure in sentence form
- Detailed legend

Response: corrections have been made as indicated by the editor

Comment: Submission of a manuscript to a BioMed Central journal implies that materials described in the manuscript, including all relevant raw data, will be freely available to any scientist wishing to use them for non-commercial purposes, without breaching participant confidentiality. Thus, we request that you upload English language versions of all questionnaires developed specifically for use in this study as supplementary files. If the questionnaires are not yours or are already published by you, please supply references and/or links to them.

Response: English version questionnaire have been uploaded in supplementary material section as indicated by the editor
Comment: At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: corrections have been made as indicated by the editor